



NEWS RELEASE

County of Los Angeles

Contact: Judy Hammond, Director, Public Affairs, (213) 974-1363
Victoria Pipkin, Assistant Director, (213) 974-1652

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ANITA BOCK RESIGNS AS DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

The resignation of Anita Bock, director of the Department of Children and Family Services, was announced today, effective Aug. 16.

In making the announcement, Chief Administrative Officer David Janssen released the following statement:

“On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I am today announcing the resignation of Anita Bock as director of the Department of Children and Family Services.

“When Anita accepted the position of director 2 ½ years ago, she assumed responsibility for managing the largest child welfare agency in the country – a \$1.1 billion department with more than 6,000 employees charged with protecting the lives and health of some 70,000 abused and neglected children entrusted to the County’s dependency system.

“Anita brought an intense and welcome passion for children to the job and to the department. Her commitment to our County’s kids – especially those who find themselves on the margins – is unparalleled.

“Anita was brought in to stabilize our child welfare system and to start some major reform, and under her leadership the department has made substantial progress in that regard. However, significant challenges still lie ahead and substantial work remains to be done as the County focuses on preparing the children in our care to become healthy, self-sufficient and productive adults. As a result, the Board and Anita have agreed that it is time to bring in new leadership.

“With Anita’s departure, I will recommend that the Board appoint Marjorie Kelly, former head of the State of California’s child welfare system in the administration of Gov. Pete Wilson. Ms. Kelly will serve for an anticipated period of four to six months as interim director while the County conducts a national search for the most qualified permanent replacement.

“The Board and I thank Anita Bock for her service to the children of the County of Los Angeles and to the staff of DCFS. We wish her well in all her future professional endeavors.”

